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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Hello --

I am a technologist and market analyst for a major telecommunications equipment vendor. Here, however, I speak for myself:

The proposed Microsoft Settlement is not a good idea. It is not good for the consumer and it is not good for the United States as a whole. Microsoft must open its APIs, or we'll be going through this whole trial again in another 5 years.

By opening the APIs for Windows, Microsoft will not be prevented from "innovating".

Rather, the field will be open for others to innovate in the space, so Microsoft will have actual competition and a reason to fix things.

I must point out that the continued existence of Microsoft as an unregulated monopoly is very dangerous for the economy of the United States; Microsoft will have no real reason to patch its numerous security holes without vigorous competition. How much money has the U.S. economy lost from the "Code Red" and "Nimda" viruses? Despite recent announcements from Mr. Gates, Microsoft will not take security seriously until it is a competitive threat.

Does the U.S. government make extensive use of Microsoft products? Do you really think they are secure?

Thank you for allowing me to comment on this settlement.

-- Lou Schmidt  
-- Technical Synergist